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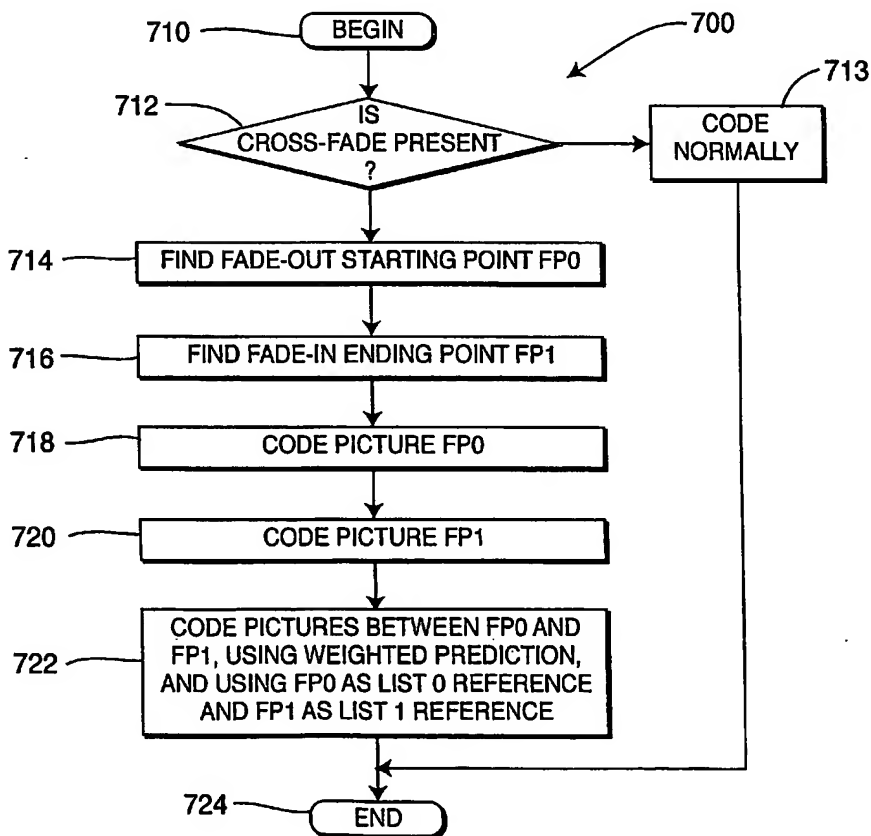
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(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): BOYCE, Jill, Mac-Donald [US/US]; 3 Brandywine Court, Manalapan, NJ 07726 (US).
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): THOMSON LICENSING S.A. [FR/FR]; 46, Quai A. Le Gallo, F-92648 Boulogne (FR).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ENCODING OF VIDEO CROSS-FADES USING WEIGHTED PREDICTION



(57) Abstract: A video encoder (200, 300) and method (700) are provided for encoding video signal data for at least one cross-fade picture disposed between a fade-out start picture and a fade-in end picture, where the encoder portion includes a reference picture weighting factor unit (272, 372) for assigning weighting factors corresponding to each of the fade-out start picture and the fade-in end picture, respectively, and the method for encoding cross-fades between pictures includes identifying pictures between which a cross-fade is desired, determining (714,716) appropriate end-points for the cross-fade, and encoding (718,720) the end-points prior to encoding (722) the cross-fade picture.



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